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|  | Health & Safety   fire extinguisher Types and their uses |  |

| **image** | **band colour** | **characteristics** | **Type of FIRE suitable for** | **type of fire not suitable for** | **other notes** |
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| **Water** | | | | | |
| Fire extinguisher - Water | Red  (no band) | * Contains nine litres of water under pressure * Discharge period of 60 - 100 seconds | * Combustible solids such as wood, paper, rubbish or textiles | * Flammable liquid fires * Flammable gas fires * Fires involving live electrical equipment * Fires involving cooking oils or fats | * Use in an upright position |
| **Foam** | | | | | |
| Fire Extinguisher - Foam | Blue | * Contains nine litres of an aqueous film-forming foam additive * Discharge period of 40 – 90 seconds | * Flammable liquid fires such as petrol, oils and paint | * Flammable gas fires * Fires involving live electrical equipment | * Use in an upright position |
| **Carbon Dioxide** | | | | | |
| Fire Extinguisher - Carbon Dioxide | Black | * Contains carbon dioxide * Discharge period depends on the size of the extinguisher | * Fires involving live electrical equipment | * Flammable gas fires * Fires involving cooking oils or fats | * Limited usefulness outdoors * Best for small fires – distance up to two metres |
| **Dry Chemical – type AB(E) or B(E)** | | | | | |
| Fire Extinguisher - Powder | White | * Contains bicarbonate-based powder * Discharge period depends on the size of the extinguisher | * Flammable liquid fires * Flammable gas fires * Fires involving live electrical equipment * Type AB(E) only: combustible solids * Type B(E) only: cooking oils and fats | * Type AB(E) only: do not use on cooking oils and fats * Type B(E) only: do not use on combustible solids | * Can be used for powered electrical equipment fire |
| **Wet Chemical** | | | | | |
|  | Oatmeal | * Contains ingredients that create soapy solutions * Discharge period depends on the size of the extinguisher | * Fires involving cooking oils or fats | * Flammable liquid fires * Flammable gas fires * Fires involving live electrical equipment | * Dangerous if used on powered electrical equipment * Can produce toxic fumes, ventilation needed |
| **Fire Blanket** | | | | | |
|  | NA | * Consists of a piece of fire-resistant fabric (usually woven glass fibre). * Must measure no less than one metre x one metre | * Fires involving cooking oils or fats * Fires on clothes | * Flammable liquid fires * Flammable gas fires * Fires involving live electrical equipment | * Only use a fire blanket if you feel physically and mentally able to use this equipment safely * Ensure to replace after every use * Do not lift or remove the fire blanket to see if the flames are out * Do not attempt to move or touch the blanket until it is cool |

**Maintenance and Servicing**

Fire extinguishers are serviced/inspected twice per year as per AS 1851.

Most fire extinguishers are serviced by a central contractor arranged through Facilities, Campus Services. Service requests should be logged directly with Facilities. Some campuses or locations other than Parkville may have a locally managed contractor. Under these arrangements the local contractor should be contacted with regards to service requests.

Fire blankets must carry the Australia Mark AS/NZS3504:2006.

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| For further information, contact Manager Emergency & Business Resilience ([e-br@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:e-br@unimelb.edu.au)). |